

June 9, 2010

Dear Sirs,

I believe the Manomet Study has underestimated the carbon impacts of biomass burning.

Contractors seeking to supply fuel to biomass burners will obtain wood in ways not anticipated in the study. There will be little supervision regarding how and where wood is obtained. Market forces will lead to over-harvesting and the cutting and chipping of trees in such a manner that the carbon sequestering capabilities of the Commonwealth's forests will be damaged to a far greater extent than outlined in the study.

The increased carbon emissions of even combined heat and power plants will hurt the Commonwealth's climate just as profoundly as the big burners due to their greater numbers and the replacement of relatively clean-burning gas and oil systems.

In Greenfield, the Commonwealth is promoting a surge in pellet wood burning heating systems in both public facilities and private homes. Large amounts of low-grade wood fuel is burned during the drying phase of the pellet fuel manufacturing process. If a combined heat and power plant is built there as well, the town's carbon emissions will increase exponentially and, since whole trees are frequently used to make pellets, carbon sequestration capabilities will be reduced.

Essentially all combustion leads to pollution. The problem that needs to be addressed is not fossil fuel burning but burning anything for power and heat.

A more thorough analysis of biomass burning impacts is needed. Using the Manomet Study to justify any increased burning in the Commonwealth will be a grave disservice to Massachusetts citizens.

Sincerely,

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